

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PA-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /050 W

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R 110311Z NOV 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2686

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL PFOR CH

SUBJECT: INITIAL CALL ON ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION

1. MR. BUSH NOVEMBER 7 PAID COURTESY CALL ON ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION LEADING MEMBER CHUANG TSE-TUNG AT PEKING GYMNASIUM. CONVERSATION WAS LIVELY BUT MOSTLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, COVERING TABLE-TENNIS TECHNIQUE (CHUANG IS EX-WORLD CHAMPION), THE VALUE OF SPORTS EXCHANGES, AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE BOXING. KUO LEI ALSO SAT IN.

2. AT ONE POINT CHUANG EMBARKED ON AT SET-PIECE EXPLANATION OF THE RATIONALE FOR PROMOTING SPORT IN CHINA LONG FAMILIAR LINES. A HEALTHY POPULATION IS BETTER ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRODUCTION AND NATIONAL DEFENSE, HE SAID. A FORMER ALLY HAS STATIONED A MILLION TROOPS ON CHINA'S NORTHERN BORDER--"TROOPS WHICH ARE AIMED ALSO AT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PACIFIC FORCES"--HE CONTINUED, AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONING IS ESSENTIAL TO COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS.

3. MR. BUSH INQUIRED ABOUT FUTURE U.S.-CHINESE SPORTS EXCHANGES. CHUANG, WHO APPARENTLY HAD BEEN WELL BRIEFED, TICKED OFF THE VARIOUS SPORTS GROUPS WHICH HAD TRAVELLED EACH WAY IN THE PAST. BUT AS TO THE FUTURE, HE CONFINED
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HIMSELF TO GLANCING IN THE DIRECTION OF KUO LEI AND

REMARKING THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE OTHER EXCHANGES
NEXT YEAR.

4. COMMENT: CHUANG IS AN ENGAGING AND ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY.
NOW INCREASINGLY THICKSET AND A HEAVY SMOKER, HE SEEMS TO BE
TAKING SERIOUSLY HIS NEW POLITICAL ROLE AS A CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MEMBER. BUT SPORTS EXCHANGES "PER SE" SEEM TO BE
KUO LEI'S BAILIWICK, AND HE MADE NO MOVE TO OPEN
DISCUSSION ON THAT ISSUE.
BUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0831
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741154/aaaabtlv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL CALL ON ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005